Impact of the Recent Cyclone on Tobacoo Crop in Andhra Pradesh

1657. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent cyclone had damaged the tobacoo crop in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Tabacco Board has made any assessment of the negative impact on exports; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposed corrective steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the time of the cyclone the process of transplantation had just begun. The tobacoo farmers have since resumed transplanting and have taken up replanting and gap filling where cyclone damage had taken place. As there was no mature crop at the time of the cyclone, the damage has been confined to nurseries.

Declining Trend of Industrial Growth

1658. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial growth has slowed down from 15.5% in 1995-96 to 9.8% during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the sagging economy and also to arrest the declining trend of industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per Index of Industrial Production, the overall industrial production in April—July, 1996-97 has recorded a growth of 9.3% as compared to growth rate of 12.3% recorded in the corresponding period of last year. The decleration in industrial growth is confined to a few Sectors particularly, the crude petroleum, Fertilizers and power generation etc.

(c) Sector specific stretegies have been initiated to remove constraints in under performing sectors. Adequate credit with softened interest rates assured to industries through the recently announced busy season credit policy are providing further impetus to growth.

Donation of One Day's Salary by the Staff of NSFDC to Andhra Pradesh CM's Relief Fund, 1996

1659. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all staff members of National S.C./S.T. Finance and Development Corporation have voluntary donated one day's salary for Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Relief Fund, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officials of N.S.F.D.C. were also deputed in Andhra Pradesh to provide assistance for undertaking economic activities by the affected Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to appeal to the people of other communities to follow the path as in (a) and (c); and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 22,022/- being one day's salary of NSFAC's employees has been

sent to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Relief Fund vide cheque No. 201865 dated 18.11.96.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. NSFDC had deputed its Zonal Officer, Hyderabad to visit areas affected by cyclone to take stock of the situation and the extent of demage suffered by SCs and STs covered under NSFDC's schemes and also to suggest measures for providing other assistance to the affected SC & ST families. On the basis of the recommendations of the State channelising agency, necessary remedial measures will be taken by the NSFDC.

(e) and (f) The Prime Minsiter of India made an appeal to the Nation to contribute to the Andhra Pradesh C.M's Cyclone Relief Fund. The Cabinet Secretary also made an appeal to the employees of Govt. of India to contribute atlest one day's salary towards the Relief Fund.

Quantitative Restrictions on Trade

1660. SHRI M.D. SALIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the reasons for the Indian Government surrendering its discretionary rights when the member countries of WTO are allowed to continue with the quantitative restrictions as long as they wish?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): Article XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1944 provides that no prohibitions or restrictions other than duties, taxes or charges, whether made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other measures shall be maintained by any Member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). However, exceptions to these provisions are available. In the interest of safeguarding our balance of payments, India has been maintaining quantitative restrictions on imports under the exceptional provisions of Article XII, since 1948, and under Article XVIII of the GATT, since 1950. At present, India is one among seven WTO Members that invokes these exceptional provisions.

For WTO member that invoke these provisions, it is provided that a member must progressively relax the restrictions as conditions improve and must eliminate them when the conditions no longer justify their maintenance. It is also provided that the member must announce publicly, as soon as possible, time schedules for the elimination of the restrictions, and that, if a public announcement is not pssible, justification as to the reasons therefor must be provided by the Member.

A Member taking recourse to Article XVIII is required to have periodic consultations with the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions, which is open to all Members of the WTO. India's consultations with this Committee, which involve a detailed examination of the balance of payments measures and related policies of Members applying the measures, were held in December 1995, and are scheduled to be resumed in January 1997.

आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति

1661. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह:**
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:

क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राज्यों को आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति हेतु क्या मानदण्ड हैं;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान और हरियाणा को आपूर्ति की गई आवश्यक वस्तुओं की मात्रा का वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में वर्ष 1996-97 के लिए आवश्यक वस्तुओं की